GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:06.07.2004
USE OF UREA FOR FERTILITY OF AGRICULTURE LAND
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertility of agricultural land throughout the country is continuously decreasing, due to use of chemical fertilizers/urea by farmers;

(b) whether the Scientists have advocated for minimum use of chemicals;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to impart training to farmers for using useful chemical fertilizers, after undertaking and extensive test on agricultural land in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether farmers in country get lowest subsidy on fertilisers in comparison to their counterparts in other countries of the world; and;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN)

(a) & (b): Application of fertilizers is recommended on the basis of existing nutrients of the soil and requirement of crops. However, there are certain instances of decline in soil health and productivity due to inadequate and/or imbalanced use of fertilizers in certain parts of the country. Government has taken the following steps to encourage the balanced use of fertilizers and sustenance of soil fertility:

(i) The soil-testing programme is periodically strengthened to make the fertilizer use recommendations according to the nutrient status of the soils.

(ii) Subsidy/concession is given to the controlled nitrogenous fertilizer (urea) as well as to the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, so as to increase their balanced consumption.

(iii) Use of integrated nutrients/micro-nutrients through chemical fertilizers and organic sources like bio-fetilizers, compost/vermi-compost is being encouraged so as to maintain soil fertility and make cheaper source of plant nutrients available to the crops.

(c) & (d) : The Government is advocating the Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and emphasize the soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers including micro-nutrients in conjunction with organic manures (like Farm Yard Manure, Compost, Vermi Compost, Green Manure etc.) and bio-fertilizers to improve soil health and productivity. Funds are also been provided for setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, mechanical compost plants for conversion of city waste into compost and training of farmers/extension workers on the INM under the scheme `Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers` which is being subsumed under Centrally Sponsored Scheme − `Supplementation/Complementation of State`s Efforts through Work Plans (Macro Management)`.

(e) & (f) : There is no data available to confirm that the farmers in India get fertilizers on lowest subsidy in comparison to their counterparts in other countries of the world.